

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A holding device for holding at least one receiving means ~~(9)element~~, provided for receiving a biological specimen, in a container ~~(10, 11)~~, comprising:
having a holding portion ~~(1)~~ for arrangement externally of the container ~~(10, 11)~~ and movable relative to the container ~~(10, 11)~~, and
having a receiving portion ~~(4)~~ for arrangement in the container ~~(10, 11)~~, which receiving portion is designed to hold the at least one receiving means ~~(9)element~~,
wherein the holding portion ~~(1)~~ and the receiving portion ~~(4)~~ are coupled in contactless manner in such a way that the receiving portion ~~(4)~~ is held in the container ~~(10, 11)~~ via the holding portion ~~(1)~~ and may be positioned relative to the container ~~(10, 11)~~ by moving the holding portion ~~(1)~~.
2. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the receiving portion ~~(4)~~ is designed to hold the at least one receiving means ~~(9)element~~ designed as collecting vessel for collecting a biological specimen recovered using laser microdissection from biological material ~~(15)~~ to be arranged in the container ~~(10, 11)~~.
3. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to claim ~~1 or claim 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ 1, wherein the holding device with the holding portion ~~(1)~~ and the receiving portion ~~(4)~~ is designed for performing laser microdissection in the closed container ~~(10, 11)~~ with regard to biological material ~~(15)~~ to be arranged in the closed container ~~(10, 11)~~.
4. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the receiving portion ~~(4)~~ is designed to hold at least one cap-type receiving means ~~(9)element~~ for accommodating a biological specimen in the container ~~(10, 11)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~claim 1, wherein
the receiving portion (4) is designed to hold a plurality of receiving means (9)element in
the container (10, 11).
6. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~claim 1, wherein
the receiving portion (4) to be arranged in the container (10, 11) is made from a material
which does not impair the biological properties of a biological specimen received by the
at least one receiving means (9)element, which is held by the receiving portion (4) in the
container (10, 11).
7. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~claim 1, wherein
the holding portion (1) and the receiving portion (4) are made from a plastics material.
8. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~claim 1, wherein
the receiving portion (4) is made from polytetrafluoroethylene.
9. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~claim 1, wherein
the holding portion (1) is made from polytetrafluoroethylene.
10. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~claim 1, wherein
the holding portion (1) is coupled with the receiving portion (4) in contactless manner by
a magnetic coupling (3, 7).

11. (Currently Amended) A holding device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~claim 1, wherein
the holding device is so designed that it allows good illumination of biological material
(15) located in the container (10, 11) and/or good illumination of the biological specimen
received in the receiving ~~means (9)~~element.
12. (Currently Amended) A combination of a container (10, 11) and a holding device
according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 for holding in the container (10, 11)
at least one receiving ~~means (9)~~element, provided in the container (10, 11), for receiving
a biological specimen.
13. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~wherein
the container takes the form of a Petri dish.
14. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 12 ~~or claim 13, characterised in~~
~~that~~12, wherein
the container comprises a main body (10) with a base for biological material (15) and a
cover (11) for covering and closing the main body (10).
15. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 14, ~~characterised in that~~wherein
the base of the main body (10) comprises a first membrane (13), which is laser light-
transmitting, and, arranged on the first membrane (13), a second membrane (14) which is
laser light-transmitting~~absorbing~~.
16. (Currently Amended) A laser microdissection system (20) having a holding device
according to ~~any one of claims 1-12~~claim 1.
17. (Currently Amended) A laser microdissection system according to claim 16,
~~characterised in that~~wherein

the laser microdissection system (20) is designed for computer-assisted positioning of the receiving portion (4) in the container (10, 11) by computer-assisted adjustment of the holding portion (1) of the holding device.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for holding at least one receiving means (9) element, which is provided for receiving a biological specimen, in a container (10, 11), comprising the steps of:
- a) arranging a receiving portion (4), which is designed to hold the at least one receiving means (9) element, in the container (10, 11),
 - b) arranging a holding portion (1) externally of the container (10, 11), and
 - c) positioning the receiving portion (4) in the container (10, 11) by means of contactless coupling between the holding portion (1) and the receiving portion (4) by moving the holding portion (1) relative to the container (10, 11), wherein the receiving portion (4) is held in the container (10, 11) by the holding portion (1) by means of the contactless coupling.
19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, characterised wherein in ~~that~~ the step b) of arranging the holding portion (1), the holding portion is arranged externally of the container (10, 11) in the vicinity of the receiving portion (4) located in the container (10, 11).
20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18 ~~or claim 19~~, characterised in that 18, wherein in the step a) of arranging the receiving portion (4), the receiving portion is arranged on the inside of a cover (11) of the container, and in the step b) of arranging the holding portion (1), the holding portion is arranged on the outside of the cover (11).
21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, characterised in that wherein,

after arrangement of the receiving portion (4) on the inside of the cover (11) and of the holding portion (1) on the outside of the cover (11), the arrangement consisting of the holding portion (1), the cover (11) and the receiving portion (4) is combined in such a way with a main body (10) of the container that the cover (11) covers the main body (10) and the receiving portion (4) on the inside of the cover (11) is arranged inside the container formed by the main body (10) and the cover (11).

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 18-21~~, characterised in ~~that claim 18~~, wherein the receiving portion (4) is sterilised before the step a) of arranging the receiving portion is performed.
23. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 18-22~~, characterised in ~~that claim 18~~, wherein the holding portion (1) and the receiving portion (4) form a holding device according to ~~any one of claims 1-11~~ claim 1.
24. (Currently Amended) A method for laser microdissection in a container (10, 11), characterised in that, comprising the steps of:
holding at least one receiving means (9) element for receiving a biological specimen detached by means of laser microdissection from biological material (5) located in the container (10, 11) is held by means of a method according to any one of claims claim 18-23 in the container (10, 11), and in that the,
detaching at least one biological specimen is detached by laser microdissection from the biological material (15) located in the container (10, 11) and received, and
receiving the at least one biological specimen by the at least one receiving means (9) element held in the container (10, 11).
25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24, characterised in that wherein the method is performed in computer-assisted manner.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24 or claim 25, characterised in ~~that~~24, wherein,
to perform the method, a holding device according to ~~any one of claims 1-11~~claim 1 is
used to hold the at least one receiving ~~means (9)~~element in the container ~~(10, 11)~~.
27. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 24-26~~, characterised in ~~that~~claim 24, wherein,
to perform laser microdissection, a combination of the closed container ~~(10, 11)~~ and a
holding device ~~(1, 4)~~ according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 12-17 is used.